

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00
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C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 19203

USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EEC, SP, PFOR, ECIN
SUBJ: EC/SPAIN RELATIONS -- RENEGOTIATION OF 1970 AGREEMENT;
EC COUNCIL APPROVES NEGOTIATING MANDATE

1. WITH ITALY DROPPING ITS RESERVATIONS WITH RESPECT
TO CONCESSIONS ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS, THE EC COUNCIL
ADOPTED DECEMBER 20 NEGOTIATING DIRECTIVES FOR THE EC
COMMISSION TO ENABLE RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS AIMED AT
SUPPLEMENTING THE 1970 EC/SPAIN TRADE AGREEMENT.

2. PRESS ANNOUNCED THAT NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BEGIN
DECEMBER 23. SPANISH MISSION OFFICIAL INFORMED MISSION
OFFICER, HOWEVER, THAT DISCUSSIONS WILL NOT BEGIN UNTIL
MID-JANUARY BECAUSE OF LACK OF TIME BEFORE HOLIDAY BREAK
TO GIVE A CONSIDERED SPANISH REACTION TO THE COMMISSION'S
PROPOSALS, WHICH THE SPANIARDS ALREADY HAVE. SPANISH
OFFICIAL OBSERVED HIS GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS COMMISSION'S
PROPOSALS INADEQUATE BECAUSE THEY CALL FOR LIBERALIZATION
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OF SPANISH TRADE POLICIES VIS-A-VIS THE COMMUNITY BUT
WITHOUT GENUINE RECIPROCITY BY THE EC. HE SAID SPAIN WILL
SUBMIT COUNTER PROPOSALS IN JANUARY.

3. REVIEWING THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSALS, SPANISH MISSION
SOURCE NOTED THAT THE PROPOSED EC CONCESSIONS ON CERTAIN
SPANISH AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS, ALTHOUGH INCREASED, ARE

STILL INSUFFICIENT AS FAR AS SPAIN IS CONCERNED, PARTICULARLY WHEN COMPARED WITH CONCESSIONS EC HAS MADE TO OTHER MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES UNDER COMMUNITY'S GLOBAL MEDITERRANEAN POLICY. SOURCE SAID EC CONCESSIONS IN THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR ARE ALSO CONSIDERED TO BE INSUFFICIENT AND THAT SPAIN IS DISTURBED THAT THE COMMISSION WISHES TO ESTABLISH IMPORT CEILINGS ON CERTAIN PRODUCTS, PARTICULARLY TEXTILES.

4. REGARDING EC REQUEST FOR SUBSTANTIAL SPANISH CONCESSIONS FOR EC INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS, SOURCE SAID SPAIN IS UNHAPPY WITH DEMAND FOR ACCELERATED DISMANTLEMENT OF TARIFF BARRIERS BY JULY 1, 1978 AND INCLUSION OF CERTAIN ITEMS NOT PREVIOUSLY COVERED IN THE 1970 AGREEMENT. ACCORDING TO SPANISH OFFICIAL, A FURTHER BONE OF CONTENTION IS THE EC PROPOSAL THAT SPAIN NEGOTIATE A SEPARATE ARRANGEMENT WHEREBY IT WOULD RESPECT A GIVEN PRICE LEVEL IN EXCHANGE FOR MAINTAINING 1976 IMPORT LEVELS INTO THE EC. SOURCE NOTED THAT SPANISH STEEL PRODUCERS ARE HESITANT TO ENTER INTO SUCH AN AGREEMENT WITHOUT BENEFIT OF FULL MEMBERSHIP IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES, INCLUDING ECSC. (COMMENT: THE FOREGOING SUGGESTS THAT, AS IN ALL EC-SPANISH NEGOTIATIONS, THE UPCOMING DISCUSSIONS ON MODIFYING THE 1970 AGREEMENT ARE LIKELY TO BE DIFFICULT AND PROLONGED.) HINTON

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